

MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH & CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL.



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Chief Executive
June 2023

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Príomhfheidhmeannach
Meitheamh 2023

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Seirbhísí Corparáirdeacha / Corporate. Mayors Official Engagements May 2023.

MONDAY 1st:	
TUESDAY 2nd:	
WEDNESDAY 3rd:	PKF Office Opening, Worklab, 24 - 26 IDA Business Park, Cork Rd, Waterford. Waterford Safety Ireland Waterford Mayoral Reception, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, Co. Waterford.
THURSDAY 4th:	Waterford and the Farm Labourers' Strike- Park Hotel Dungarvan. Attended by Cllr. Declan Doocey. St. Declans Camogie Mayoral Reception, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, Co. Waterford. Waterford Social Prescribing Service, Central Library, Lady Lane, Co. Waterford.
FRIDAY 5th:	
SATURDAY 6th:	
SUNDAY 7th:	The Dawn Chorus, Dunmore East Library in the Community Garden of Fishermans Hall. Co. Waterford.
MONDAY 8th:	
TUESDAY 9th:	
WEDNESDAY 10th:	
THURSDAY 11th:	
FRIDAY 12th:	
SATURDAY 13th:	Waterford City Rugby Football Club, Clubhouse, Kilbarry, Co. Waterford.
SUNDAY 14th:	Saddle up for Down Syndrome, SETU Arena, Co. Waterford. Book Launch Diary of a Deise Scribbler, Lawlors Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. Mass for delegates from The Edmund Rice, Edmund Rice Chaple, Co. Waterford.
MONDAY 15th:	The European Weightlifting Championship's, SETU Arena, Co. Waterford. Parliamentary Visit, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, Co. Waterford.
TUESDAY 16th:	Mahon Falls Car Park Official Opening, Mahon Falls, Co. Waterford. Kilmeaden Greenway Link Official Opening, Kilmeaden Train Station, Co. Waterford. Greeting with The European Weightlifting bodies, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford.
WEDNESDAY 17th:	SETU Orchestra Concert, Chapel on the SETU Cork Road Campus, Co. Waterford.
THURSDAY 18th:	St Herblain Mayoral Reception, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, Co. Waterford. 50 Years of Ireland in the EU, Central Library, Lady Lane, Co. Waterford. Exhibition Launch, Waterford Gallery of Art, Co. Waterford. SETU Music School Youth Choir, Chapel, College Street Campus, Co. Waterford.
FRIDAY 19th:	Launching new cigarette butt ballot bins, Tramore, Co. Waterford. Invitation to Waterford Food Banks 1 Million Meal Thank you, Large Room, City Hall, Co. Waterford. Saint Joseph's football Club Mayoral Reception, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, Co. Waterford. Monastic Springs, The Friary, Lady Lane, Co. Waterford.
SATURDAY 20th:	Celebration of all faiths and people of faith in Waterford, The Apple Market, Co. Waterford.
SUNDAY 21st:	
MONDAY 22nd:	USA & Canada Trip from Monday 22nd Until Friday 26th. Norwegian Ambassador, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford. An Comhdháil Cheilteach - Celtic Congress, The Viking Hotel, Cork Road, Co. Waterford.
TUESDAY 23rd:	
WEDNESDAY 24th:	SETU Degree Showcase, The Index Gallery at Central Library, Co. Waterford. Cllr. Eamon Quinlan.
THURSDAY 25th:	Exhibition of Art Work, Dungarvan Library, Co. Waterford. Cllr. Declan Doocey. Dusk Chorus, Sensory Garden at CarrickPhierish Library, Co. Waterford. Cllr. Eamon Quinlan.
FRIDAY 26th:	White Strand Youth Club 5th Birthday. Dungarvan Sports Centre, Co. Waterford. Cllr. Declan Doocey.
SATURDAY 27th:	Africa Day, The Cultural Quater, Co. Waterford. Cllr. Eamon Quinlan. Bealtaine Festival, Top of the City Garden Co. Waterford. Cllr. Eamon Quinlan. Saint Josephs Football Club Dinner Dance, The Tower Hotel, Co. Waterford.
SUNDAY 28th:	
MONDAY 29th:	
TUESDAY 30th:	Green Arts Forum, The Large Room, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford. Deise Men's shed, Mayoral Reception, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, Co. Waterford. Waterford Gathering Welcome, Vestibule, Theatre Royal, Co. Waterford. SETU Choral programme concert, Chapel, SETU College Street Campus, Co. Waterford. Waterford Book Launch, Boxworks, Co Waterford.
WEDNESDAY 31st:	Launching the Blue Flags and Green Coast flags, Tamore Co. Waterford. 2023 Blackwater Valley Opera Festival, Lismore Catsle, Co. Waterford.

Attended by Mayor: [Attended by Deputy Mayor](#): [Attended by Mayor of the Metropolitan District](#): [Attended by Metro Deputy](#): [Attended by a Representative](#):

Forbairt Eacnamaíoch / Economic Development

North Quays

BAM's site offices for the main construction contract are established on Frank Cassin Wharf. Construction works will commence on Fountain Street and Dock Road in the coming weeks and BAM is engaging with local stakeholders and working to agree traffic management proposals.

David Walsh Civil Engineering contractor is progressing well on the Pump Station Enabling Works and relocating the Ferrybank Pump Station, 50% of the Pump Station contract is deemed to be complete. Piles are currently being installed for the main vehicular bridge into the SDZ site.

Local Enterprise Office

LEO Figures year to date (2023) and comparison of current month with previous year

Indicator	At end of May 2022	At end of May 2023
Measure 1		
No. of Clients applying	6	11
No. of Clients securing	6	11
Value of support approved	€178,145	€117,963
Measure 2		
No. of clients receiving	965	1280
Value of support given	€122,607	€185,845

Support – Trading Online Voucher

Trading Online Voucher

No. of Approvals	32
Value of Approvals	€66,298

Figures not included in cumulative table.

Four new Entrepreneurs begin their journey at Boxworks with the LEO Desk Programme

Four entrepreneurs recently took up their desk space at Boxworks Co. Work. Space as part of a Local Enterprise Office Waterford scholarship programme. The LEO Desk programme was created to facilitate those with a business idea or in start-up phase. By providing a creative coworking and networking environment, the businesses will be well positioned to put their specific goals in place with the aid of monthly meetings with a LEO business advisor.



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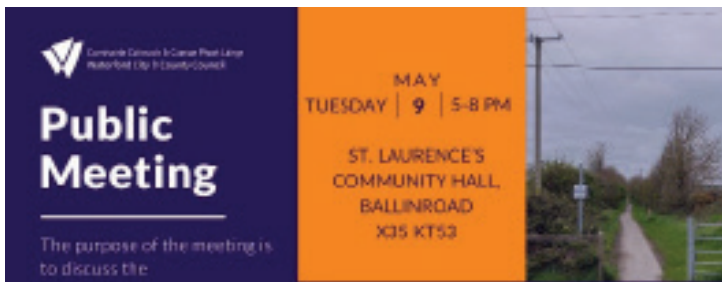
Communications

Press Releases

The Communications Department distributed 10 media releases, drafted 12 Mayoral speeches and posted approximately 70 content pieces on the Council website news page.



IN HOUSE DESIGN:



Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards:

In total 11 submissions were made to the Chambers Ireland Excellence Awards which take place in November 2023 – Shortlist announced in August.

- Climate Change – Business Rates Waiver to promote & support sustainability
- Festival of the Year – Winterval, Ireland's Christmas Festival
- Age Friendly Initiative – Waterford Story Collector Project
- Supporting Tourism – Mount Congreve
- Health and Wellbeing – Ballybeg community playground

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- Heritage and Built Environment – Museums of Time and Silver
- Promoting Economic Development – LEO Digital Awards
- Local Authority Innovation – Waterford’s Digital Story Trail
- Communications – Celebrating Waterford, Ireland’s Best Place to Live
- Diversity and Inclusion – Waterford’s Ukrainian Refugee Response
- Urban Revival – Tramore Public Realm

#YourCouncilDay2023

This year Your Council Day takes will take place on Friday 23rd June.

The day aims to highlight the many services local authorities provide and the important role local authorities play in the social and economic life of the area.

Communications department is working with all sectors to prepare an extensive suite of social media content (static and video content) that showcases the work of Waterford City and County Council. Videos include fire services, environment (water stations / ballot bins), Ukrainian refugee response and Healthy Waterford.

Social Media Stats (WCCC and Shop Waterford FB/ Twitter/ LinkedIn combined): 2023

	Reach	% Change	Posts	% Change	Followers	% Change
March	661,668	30.6%	415	54%	46,636	0.9%
April	842,008	27.3%	247	40.5%	46,901	0.6%
May	687,697	-18%	411	66%	47,153	1%

WCCC Website stats: April 28th to May 26th 2023

	Page Views	Unique page views	Avg. Time on Page
	97,206	78,589	00:01:24
1. Online Planning Enquiries	10,172	8,194	00:03:39
2. Choice Based Lettings	6,873	4,999	00:01:39
3. Index	6,379	5,119	00:00:35
4. Planning Enquiries	4,056	2,767	00:00:14
5. Online Payments	3,802	3,398	00:03:06
6. Job Vacancies	3,431	2,950	00:01:53
7. Departments Index	3,344	2,657	00:00:17
8. Planning Index	2,623	2,010	00:00:42
9. Planning Lists Index	2,353	2,004	00:03:31
10. Housing Index	1,941	1,588	00:00:46

*Page views represent the total amount of ‘hits’ to any given webpage - one person can make multiple page views

**Unique Page views count unique views of a page only once, regardless of how many pages they have visited during one visit.

*** This month there was a Advertising campaign running for Waterford 2040 so that impacted the total figures.

TRAILS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION:

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

DRCD has advised that there will be a call for funding for the 2023 scheme in the coming weeks.

Economic Development & Enterprise SPC

The next Economic Development & Enterprise SPC is scheduled on September 27th 2023.



Pleanáil / Planning

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED – COUNTYWIDE

82 Planning applications were received countywide in from 1st-29th May 2023. This compares with 100 planning applications received for the same period in 2022.

A total of 387 planning applications were received in the year to 29th May 2023. This compares to 461 planning applications which were received in the same period in 2022.



Heritage Officer Report

Decade of Commemorations

Five projects have been awarded funding under the Community Commemoration Grant Scheme for projects commemorating the 1921-1923.

Heritage Council Community Heritage Grant Scheme

Seven projects were successful in their application to the Heritage Council's Community Heritage Grant Scheme.

Biodiversity

Waterford City and County Council with funding from the Heritage Council are supporting a goat grazing project at Ardmore Head to help restore the protected habitats within the Special Area of Conservation. Due to lack of management and grazing on Ardmore Head SAC over the past two decades the protected Dry Heath habitat of Bell Heather and Western Gorse has been invaded by Bracken and Common Gorse. Goat grazing and trampling of the area will reduce the cover of these invasive species and allow regeneration of the coastal heath along the headland. There is also the remnants of an Éire sign on the site from the Emergency which will be exposed with the help of the goats. The goats were acquired from William Walsh, a West Cork shepherd-horticulturist from Enniskeane, whose Billy's Rent-A-Goat business forms part of his wide-ranging promotion of ethical land management and social education.

Birdwatch Ireland have been commissioned by Waterford City and County Council to carry out a survey of Barn Owls in the county. Anecdotal evidence indicates Barn Owls are increasing in Waterford possibly influenced by availability of prey such as the Greater White-toothed Shrew. A detailed survey of suitable habitat for Barn Owl along with monitoring of nesting sites and awareness raising measures will benefit the conservation of the red listed species in Co. Waterford. Sightings of Barn Owl can be reported to the Heritage Officer at bguest@waterfordcouncil.ie to help inform the county wide survey.

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Visit by the Norwegian Ambassador

Mayor of Waterford Metropolitan District Council Cllr. Jason Murphy welcomed Ambassador Mari Skåre of the Royal Norwegian Embassy to City Hall on May 22nd to celebrate and promote our shared Viking heritage. The Ambassador visited Reginald's Tower, Woodstown Viking site and Waterford County Museum and met Deputy Matt Shanahan, Deputy David Cullinane and members of Woodstown Viking Site Steering Committee.

Heritage Week

Heritage Week this year runs from August 12th-20th. This year's theme invites people to explore the traditions and practices, knowledge and skills passed down through generations. National Heritage Week celebrates Ireland's cultural, built and natural heritage and events can be registered on the heritageweek.ie portal. A printed Heritage Week events guide will also be published by Waterford City and County Council.

Heritage Funding 2023

Over 10 applications have been submitted for projects across Waterford to the Heritage Council's Community Heritage Fund. The aim of this scheme is to support capital projects that improve access and inclusion to heritage sites; that apply good heritage practice to the management of places, collections, or objects including buildings. Eight applications have been submitted to the Community Monuments Fund allocated by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to a value of €336,000 for conservation and survey of a range of archaeological sites across the city and county.

Six applications have been submitted to the Local Biodiversity Action Fund allocated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to a value of €100,000 for projects on Brent Geese, Barn Owls, control of invasive species, wetland management and control of invasive species. The outcome of funding applications will be known by early May.

Conservation Officer Report

Works have commenced on some of the 28 projects granted funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund. Waterford City and County Council also received €100,000 in funding under the Community Monument Fund for conservation works to Blackfriars Abbey in the City.

Archaeological testing at Parade Quay has also revealed sections of the City wall under the ground level of the existing buildings on the Quay.

Cathedral Square. In June the public will be able to see the conservation works within the new museum including timbers dating from 15th century, medieval stone lined drain and 17th century fireplace and oven. A stone floor was also discovered which included broken pieces of marble and cut stone from the Cathedral, which were probably removed in the late 18th century when the new Cathedral was being constructed.

Historic wallpaper experts from US and Europe came to visit Mount Congreve to look at the Chinese wallpaper. This wallpaper was manufactured in the Canton region in 1780s. It is a rare example of such workmanship and another surviving example of this type of wallpaper is at Schloss Schönbrunn in Vienna. The paper at Mount Congreve is considered is a cultural artefact of international importance.



Tithíocht / Housing

Housing Applications

Housing Applications				
<i>* inc files from carried forward</i>	May 2022	Year 2022	May 2023	Year to date 2023
Applications received	116	959	216	885
Applications assessed *	64	434	57	242
Applications Validated*	N/A	N/A	123	498
Approved for social housing supports following interview	N/A	N/A	43	119

Housing Allocations

Housing Allocations					
	New Tenancies May 2022	Cumulative Tenancies 2022	New Tenancies May 2023	Refusal of new Tenancies	Cumulative Tenancies 2023
Total	55	621	32	20	136

CHOICE BASED LETTING (CBL) SCHEME

The total number of properties advertised on the CBL system to date is 1204 There have been 394 refusals on properties.

Housing Loans applications

Housing Loans applications					
2023 Housing Loans	Applications received	Applications awaiting info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Applications with housing agency/Deferred for 6 months
May	4	2	6	2	2
Year to date	27	2	18	5	2

Tenant Purchase applications

2023 Tenant Purchase	Applications received	Applications awaiting info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Sales Closed
May	2	2	0	2	0
Year to date 2022	22	13	7	2	0
Year to date 2023	68	0	7	58	16

Housing Assistance Payment

	May 22 HAP Tenancies	May 23 HAP Tenancies	2023 No.of active HAP Tenancies set up	Applications approved	Sales Closed
HAP Tenancies	14	12	-17	4,661	1769

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Inspections of Dwellings

Inspections of Dwellings

HAP	38
HAP Non- Compliant	33
Total	38

Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability, Housing Aid for Older People and Mobility Aid Grants

Grant Scheme amount	No of applications approved May 2023	Value of applications May 2023	Cumulative number of applications approved 2023	Cumulative value of 2023 applications
Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability. Max. €30,000	15	€112,145.00	32	€318,669.00
Mobility Aids Scheme Maximum €6,000	1	€3,840.00	6	€24,950.00
Housing Aid for Older People Maximum €8,000	9	€41,907.00	35	€180,911.86
Total	25	€151,747.00	73	€524,530.86

Housing Grant Applications Received & Validated:	Housing Grant Applications Incomplete & Returned:	Housing Grant Applications Incomplete & Returned:
55	6	25

Homeless Services

Homeless Services

Waterford Integrated Homeless Services (WIHS)	24th April – 21st May 2023	Cumulative 2023	Total 2022
Number of Callers to WIHS seeking a service	258	1,300	3,618
Assessments by a Homeless Officer	84	390	954

Breakdown of Persons in Emergency Accommodation

	21st May 2023	21st May 2022
Number of Single Persons	41	48
Number of Families	15	17
Number of Adults in Families	18	20
Number of Children	26	33

HAP PlaceFinder Service

	24th April – 21st May 2023	Cumulative 2023
Number of Assessments by the Homeless HAP Officer	23	123
Number of HAP PlaceFinder Tenancies HUB Complete	6	55

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Housing First Programme

	Tenancies 2023
<u>Number of Tenancies in place at 21st May 2023 with Housing First supports.</u>	<u>34</u>

Capital Projects

Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects

<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Units</u>
Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects	339
<u>Part V</u>	<u>295</u>
Total Units in WCCC Projects	634

Housing Capital Schemes - Approved Housing Body Projects

	<u>Units</u>
Total Units in Approved Housing Body Projects	42

Housing Efficiency Retrofit (Total Units for 2022)

	<u>Units</u>
Total Units Housing Efficiency Retrofit 2022	19

ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFITTING MAY 2023:

Consideration is under way for submission relating to properties for 2023.

REFURBISHING OF HOUSES BECOMING VACANT FOR RE LET:

<u>May 2023</u>	<u>Total</u>
Handed over/	
<u>Works completed</u>	<u>15</u>
Newley Vacant	11

Seirbhísí Pobail / Community Services

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

- Draft LDS for RDP 2023-2027 was submitted to Pobal on 28.04.2023.
- Review points have now been received and LDS will be finalised in June/July.
- The current programme is 100% allocated.
- 87% of projects have been paid out, with an additional 2% currently at claim stage.

COMHAIRLE NA NÓG:

The topic for 2023 has been identified as Relationships and Sexual Education in schools. Progress on 2023 activities is being made weekly by the young people. Work underway preparing for the creating on the Podcast on the young peoples chosen topic.

WATERFORD AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME:

The new strategy will be launched by Minister Mary Butler TD on June 16th 2023 simultaneously at the launch of St. Josephs, Manor Hill, Waterford housing development by Minister Dara O'Brien. Planning is underway to begin delivering on the year 1 action plan.

HEALTHY WATERFORD

Several initiatives as part of the Healthy Waterford local strategy have begun. One of our key initiatives to engage closely with communities at grass roots level has been the Playful Streets program. It is available to venues pending good levels of interest from the local community. Playful Streets are a low cost and easy way to turn streets into play spaces, by limiting access to vehicles for a few hours. At Playful Streets children and neighbours can safely play and socialise outside — just like you did when you were young. Playful Streets are meant to be simple, you'll find that using your common sense is what you'll need most. Playful Streets are big or small occasions. They can run for a couple of hours on any day of the week. They can be one-off or regular events.

Training was complete with the Place Standard tool that is used to assess the quality of place of which a community lives in. This needs assessment can assess places that are well established, undergoing change, or still being planned.

The Pobal funding is being released to the Local Authority from the 1st of June. Several projects have been committed funding. The successful application has received minor adjustments. Further projects will be identified with a aim to spend the majority of the funding this year.

SLÁINTECARE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME (SHCP):

A lot of progress has been made under the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme with Waterford City & County Council and the HSE working together on promoting and implementing the programme locally. Various projects are progressing in conjunction with Waterford Sports Partnership, SETU, Healthy Waterford and community organisations. The Local Implementation Team for the project was set up and had its first meeting. The 2023 Seed funding of €75,000 from the Department of Health has been allocated to 5 projects and sent for approval to the Department of Health.

WATERFORD COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (WCSP):

Applications have been submitted by the WLCSP to the Community Safety Innovation Fund for a 'Consent Matters' innovative education campaign on 'consent' and 'bystander intervention' throughout the City and County, in collaboration with SETU and The Purple Flag Steering Committee. The Community Innovation Fund, established in April 2021, uses money seized by An Garda Síochána and the Criminal Assets Bureau from the proceeds of crime to fund innovative new projects to support community safety.

The CoOrdinator attended a second City Centre Retail Forum Meetings and in collaboration with Spraoi, a funding Application to Creative Ireland was successful. The Partnership supported the hugely successful Waterford Garda Youth Awards at City Hall, by sponsoring the refreshments.

The last plenary Meeting of the WLCSP, was on Monday 8th May 2023 in the Civic offices, Dungarvan and the Agenda included an overview of the work of Treo Port Laigne by the CEO and a Garda Presentation on the SARA Communications Model (Scanning, Analysis, Response & Assessment).

The next WLCSP Plenary Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 26th September 2023, when Assistant Garda Commissioner Hilman will present to the Partnership.

UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY RESPONSE FORUM:

The Ukrainian CRF is in place to assist with housing, supporting and integrating Ukrainian refugees into our communities. All key agencies are working in collaboration to provide services and supports to all Ukrainians arriving into Waterford. Approximately 2,400 Ukrainian refugees have been registered in Waterford to date with over 1,649 Ukrainians having been received directly into Waterford Council run Rest Centres in Dungarvan and Waterford City. To date 1,520 Ukrainians have been processed at our Emergency Centres with 1,242 matched with pledged and other accommodation sourced by Waterford Council.

Licence renewal of pledges is in excess of 75% and the team continue to work on increasing numbers of BOTPS residing in Waterford.

Waterford Area Partnership are supporting those who have moved with integration into our communities.

A new local ad for 'offer a home' pledge call for vacant properties went live on 17th April on WLRFM running for 21 days. This resulted in additional interest in the OAH process. We will be posting the ad on our social media pages also shortly. Any queries on same should be directed to offerahome@waterfordcouncil.ie or 058 22059.

PRIDE OF PLACE:

The entrants for the 2023 awards have been identified as CAPE-ability Lismore (winners of the overall PPN award) and the Larchville Lisduggan Residents Group (nominated by the Housing Dept.)

SICAP

Work in ongoing with Waterford Area Partnership continuing to implement the SICAP programme on behalf of the LCDDC. SICAP Budget allocations for 2023 have now been confirmed and the budget for Waterford City & County (24-1) is €1,319,399 excluding the Ukrainian budget allocation which has been set as €232,758 by the Department. Planning for the new SICAP 2024+ programme has now commenced.

TIG

The Community Department continue to support the Waterford Traveller Interagency Group which continues to meet regularly.

LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

Progress on the preparation of the new LECP is ongoing. The Socio-Economic Statement has been prepared in line with Department issued guidelines. The data collection phase has now been completed with all key stakeholders, agencies, representative groups and the broader public having been consulted with. Work is ongoing now to merge the data gathered into a coherent draft linked to the high level goals identified. The LECP is on schedule for adoption at the July Plenary Council meeting.

THE SUPPORTING WATERFORD COMMUNITY FUND 2023

Progress on the preparation of the new LECP is ongoing. The Community element of the plan is being finalised and coordination with the Economic Development Department is ongoing to ensure goal congruence.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND 2023

The Department of Rural and Community Development has awarded funding of €1,351,000 across a total of 13 Waterford projects under the Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2023.

The CRF 2023 aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contribution being made by communities in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries. The funding is specifically targeted at projects located in communities, towns and villages that are hosting the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants ('new arrivals') including towns identified for the rapid build homes programme.

The Fund aims to support the development of facilities that will be used in the future by all members of the community. It is separate in its objectives and scope to any other public funding streams which aim to support the development of public service needs arising from the significant number of arrivals from Ukraine.

CLÁR MEASURE 1 - DEVELOPING COMMUNITY FACILITIES & AMENITIES

The closing date for receipt of applications for the Clár 1 Measure was at 4p.m. on the 11th May. A total of 9 applications were received 8 of which meet the criteria for submission. The applications are in the process of being adjudicated and a list will be sent to the DRCD before 6th June 2023 which is the closing date for receipt of applications.

Seirbhísi Éigeandála / Emergency Services

FIRE SERVICE OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY:

Total call outs to incidents attended by the 10 fire stations of the Fire Authority are shown for the year to date and for the month of March. Emergency response has continued uninterrupted throughout the Covid 19 crisis with significant precautionary measures put in place to ensure the safety of the fire crews and the community it serves.

Fire Service Operational Activity:				
Area	Fires	Special Services	False alarm/ Good intent	False alarm /Malicious
Total for May	39	38	18	0
Year to date	240	217	97	0
Total for May 2022	39	43	9	0
Total for 2022	238	202	86	0

FIRE SAFETY:

The following applications for fire safety certificates have been received with comparison shown for the same period last year

Fire Safety:				
	May 2023	2023 YTD	May 2022	2022 YTD
Fire Safety Certificates	5	43	7	41

BUILDING CONTROL:

Building Control:				
Applications recived	May 2023	2023 YTD	May 2022	2022 YTD
Commencement Notices	25	107	11	310
Completion Certificates	19	79	22	204
Disability Access Certs	4	36	8	57

CIVIL DEFENCE:

Civil Defence activities during the month of May 2023 continues with assistance in the response to the urgent needs of the Displaced Persons (DP's) fleeing from the effects of the Ukraine Crisis.

- Logistical support & Transport of over 28 Ukraine related calls
- Transportation to Medical appointments such as Hospital Visits, GPs, Dentists etc

For Local Events we were involved in supporting:

- Darkness into Light, Pieta House Event
- East Meets West, Lyons Club Charity Cycle Event

Our Civil Defence volunteers continue their training and working towards recertifying their core skills in their different service area's like Communications, First Aid, Search etc.

Seirbhísí Comhshaoil / Environmental Services

Environmental Enforcement Statistics

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS:

1ST JANUARY 2023 – 25TH MAY 2023

ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE LITTER POLLUTION ACTS 1997 (AS AMENDED)

Legal Action Initiated	1
On the Spot Litter Fines Issued (Pending Payment or Prosecution)	69
On the Spot Litter Fines Paid (Includes Fines from previous year)	42
No of Notices Issued 9,16,17,20	0

ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTS 1996 (AS AMENDED)

No of Complaints	1361
Legal Actions	2
Section 18's Statutory Notices Served (asking for info on Waste Issues)	0
Section 55's Statutory Notices Served (asking for Waste to be removed in a 2 week period)	10
Section 71's (Abandoned Vehicle Notices)	6
Warning Letters Sent (Packaging Info & Notice Follow Up)	61
Section 14 Directions	6
Section 107 EPA (Noise)	0
Fixed Penalty Notices on Waste Collectors	2
Regulation 33 - Requirement on a Registered Owner to deposit an End-of-Life Vehicle at an Authorised Treatment Facility. (European Union End-of-Life Vehicles)	
Regulations 2014 – Fixed Penalty Notice.	0
Regulation 25 of the European Union (Packaging) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 282 of 2014) as amended	0

CLIMATE ACTION

Climate Action Plan

The pre-draft consultation on the Climate Action Plan is live and submissions can be made until 5.00pm on 16th June. The Consultation lays out the challenges that are ahead for Waterford, what the Council's responsibility is and what other places have done. Bearing these in mind, we are asking the public what climate actions they think the Council should take and what they would like to be able to do themselves. The Consultation has been shared with the PPN, Schools, the Chambers and it has been publicised on the Council's media platforms. We will continue to promote it across the next 3 weeks and we are hosting information sessions in the libraries. We look forward to hearing from many Waterford people as possible on this important topic.

The actions decided upon and approved by the Councillors in January 2024 will be the actions that Waterford City & County Council will take between now and the end of the decade to reduce emissions in the City and County and to prepare for Climate Change.

A workshop on the Consultation will be delivered to elected members on 1st June next.

The following is the link to the Climate Action Plan Pre-Draft Consultation:

<https://consult.waterfordcouncil.ie/en/consultation/climate-action-plan-pre-draft-consultation>

Climate Community Action Fund

We await the opening of the Community Climate Action Fund. Details are being worked out on issues such as bridge funding for communities. While the fund has not yet opened, any community with a Climate project idea (Energy, Transport, Waste etc) are encouraged to get in touch with our Community Climate Action Officer by email at: climateaction@waterfordcouncil.ie so that she can review the project with them to determine if it is suitable for funding.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & AWARENESS

Waste Prevention

National Food Waste Recycling Week takes place from 5th – 11th June with the intention of promoting food waste recycling as a positive climate action but also reminding people to do it correctly. Recent research shows a 2% increase in plastic found in food waste collections, a trend that needs to be kept in check and reversed. As part of this, ads are running on local radio and a social media campaign is being run to promote food recycling and an event to distribute food waste caddies and information packs free of charge at Dungarvan Civic Amenity Site will take place on 10th June next to promote correct food waste separation. 5 drinking water stations at beaches at Ardmore, Clonea, Dunmore East and Tramore are now in place. These will enable visitors to the beach to refill their water bottles, thus encouraging reuse and refilling. This will also reduce the number of plastic bottles disposed of.

Litter

Ballot bins were recently installed in Waterford City, Tramore and Dungarvan and are an initiative to encourage smokers to properly dispose of their cigarette butts. The ballot bins feature an engaging voting system that is a fun way to get people to vote by placing their cigarette butts in one of two voting slots. The ballot bins feature customisable questions and smokers can vote on the topic. The polls will be regularly updated and will feature Yes / No polls with questions such as 'Were Ross and Rachel on a break?' or 'Pineapple on Pizza?' Other polls will offer a choice of answers such as 'Best Blaa filling?' and 'Which came first? The Chicken or the egg'. While the topics may be fun and engaging, cigarette butts pose a real societal and environmental problem. They are the most common form of litter in both Waterford and indeed the world, with an estimated 4.5 trillion cigarette butts thrown away every year.

Community Clean-Ups

Waterford City & County Council facilitates community clean ups throughout the year to clean up litter and illegally dumped waste from approach roads, local beauty spots, beaches and general public areas. These have begun again in earnest. We continue to supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, distributing them from both our Dungarvan and Waterford offices. Collection of any bags of litter is then arranged following the clean-up.

Grants

A local Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Grant and a local Circular Economy Grant were advertised on the Council's website, social media and in local newspapers. Applications have been assessed and funding offers made.

Local Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Grant:

This is for community groups, youth groups, schools or other community development organisations, based in Waterford City and County, who are interested in receiving funding for public education and awareness initiatives regarding litter or graffiti.

National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy

The Statutory Consultation Phase for the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy has launched and is running from Wednesday, 3rd May until 4.00 pm on Wednesday, 5th July.

This Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2023 to 2029. Ireland is moving away from the traditional linear 'take-make-use-dispose' model towards a 'circular economy' regenerative growth model where resources are reused or recycled as much as possible and the generation of waste is minimised. The transition to a circular economy is essential to reduce pressure on natural resources, aid in achieving climate targets, support Sustainable Development Goals and create sustainable growth and jobs.

This Plan includes specific targets, policies and actions to enable the waste and resource sector to meet the circularity challenge and accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

The Plan is available to view and make submissions on <https://www.mywaste.ie/national-waste-plan/>

Libraries

In May, Waterford City & County Libraries were buzzing with activity. Statistics: figures represent 30 days of activity to May 25th.

<i>No. of Visitors this month</i>	42,226
<i>Active members</i>	22,974
<i>Issues in Branch</i>	25,409
<i>On Line Borrowing including, ebooks & emagazines</i>	8,005
<i>Events & Activities</i>	592

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAY:

- The annual celebration of children's books and creativity that is the Towers and Tales festival took place over the May bank Holiday weekend. On the Saturday there were over 2,000 visitors to the festival, Waterford Libraries hosted a book swap, story times and workshops. Towers and Tales Festival director, Elaina Ryan of Children's Books Ireland said, "Thanks again so much for everything, I have never before worked with an organisation as spirited and generous (in all aspects) as Waterford Libraries, you are truly unique!"
- In May there were over 30 events across the county for Bealtaine, the annual celebration of creativity in older age.
- The Waterford Bealtaine Choir was announced as this year's national flagship choir, which added something special to the opening Dawn and closing Dusk chorus performances. The festival was launched by Mayor of Waterford City & County Council, Cllr John O'Leary and was attended by over 100 people.
- Authors Liz Nugent and Aingeala Flannery appeared in Carrickphierish and Central Libraries respectively, as part of the 'Writers in Waterford Libraries' series of events. These events provide an opportunity for people to connect with internationally renowned authors. Library staff have programmed these events to really focus on the love of reading and good writing that the people of Waterford have always had in abundance.
- On May 10th, the Sacred Heart Family Resource Centre hosted an art exhibition for Social Prescribing participants in Central Library. This event was supported by Creative Waterford and the Mayor of Waterford City and County Council Cllr John O'Leary and Mary Butler TD, Minister for Mental Health attended.
- There were 7,815 logins to our Times Tables Rockstars Primary school numeracy support software.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT:

- On the 3rd May Central Library hosted a Community Energy Hub: Home Energy Information event to provide the public with relevant and useful information and answer questions about energy at home, smart meters, renewable energy etc. This was facilitated by the Southeast Energy Agency. 14 people attended.
- 3D Printing Workshops were held with St. John's Junior Cycle Students, there were 40 attendees in May. quality creative writing workshops for Waterford people in 2023.

Management Report Plenary 8th June 2023.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Summer stars our annual literacy promotion programme for primary school children will launch in June.
- Waterford Libraries will distribute over 1600 free Little Library Book bags to children in Co. Waterford starting primary school in September 2023.
- Crinniú na nOg will take place on June 11th.
- A Clothes Swap and a Repair café will be held in Central Library in June.



Airgeadas / Finance Revenue Account

Waterford City and County Council - Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division Y.T.D. to April 30, 2023

	EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
	Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised
A Housing & Building	11,919,834	35,728,461	33%	12,824,616	38,036,305	34%
B Road Transport & Safety	10,549,262	49,146,777	21%	5,316,488	33,752,918	16%
C Water Services	3,602,011	11,790,929	31%	3,424,802	11,163,993	31%
D Development Management	8,126,379	21,992,796	37%	4,593,411	11,448,028	40%
E Environmental Services	6,603,980	21,512,181	31%	419,404	2,875,458	15%
F Recreation & Amenity	5,181,162	15,464,575	34%	593,073	1,614,234	37%
G Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	279,564	1,068,270	26%	96,896	399,696	24%
H Miscellaneous Services	3,285,853	9,678,508	34%	3,674,083	10,749,476	34%
LG Local Property Tax / GPG	0	0	0%	6,555,876	19,667,628	33%
RA Rates	0	0	0%	12,224,919	36,674,758	33%
	49,548,045	166,382,494	30%	49,723,568	166,382,494	30%
Surplus/Deficit				175,523	0	

Collections

Summary of main collections April 2023 YTD										
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G'		[6]	[7]
	Gross Bal as at 1-1-2023	Accrued ytd to Apr 2023	Write Offs and Vacancies	Waivers & Credits	Total for Collection [1+2-3]	Collected ytd to Apr 2023	Gross Bal 30-04-2023 [4-5]	Specific Provision	% Collected ytd re Total for Collection [5/4]	% Collected ytd re 2023 Accrual [5/(4-1)]
	€	€	€		€	€	€		€	
Rates	3,008,361	36,139,633	225,365	-	38,922,629	9,577,169	29,345,460	1,391,804	26%	27%
Loans	1,534,038	1,112,009	256		2,646,303	1,084,974	1,561,329		41%	98%
Rents	3,903,206	5,611,189	2,496		9,516,891	5,286,294	4,230,597		56%	94%
Aged Analysis :										
				Less than 1 mth	2 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	greater than 12 mths			Net Balance
Rates				-	27,388,932	-	1,956,528			29,345,460
				0 to 3 mths	4 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	Greater than 12 mths			
Loans				177,847	59,249	112,709	1,211,524			1,561,329
				Less than 4 weeks	4-6 weeks	7-12 weeks	Greater than 12 wks			
Rents				167,762	81,356	157,191	3,824,288			4,230,597
Overdraft Levels										
Days in Overdraft in Apr 23'	0		Cost -	0	€0.00		Average Value when in O/D : N/A		€	-